

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims

- Claim 1. (Currently amended) A device for handling a liquid sample, said device comprising:
at least one flow path;
at least one zone for receiving the sample;
a transport or incubation zone; and
a at least one sink comprising an area having projections substantially vertical to its surface;
wherein said at least one sink has a capacity to receive said liquid sample and support or control the flow rate of said liquid sample through said transport or incubation zone.
- Claim 2. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein:
~~the said~~ at least one flow path ~~comprises~~ is two or more flow paths;
said at least one sink is two or more sinks;
each flow path of said two or more flow paths is connected to a sink of said two or more sinks; and connected to one sink, respectively;
said device is adapted to perform multiple analyses on one liquid sample.
- Claim 3. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein
said at least one flow path ~~comprises~~ is two or more flow paths;
said at least one sink is one sink;
each flow path of said two or more flow paths is connected to said one sink; and of
~~said two or more flow paths connected to one and the same sink,~~
said device ~~being~~ is adapted for performing multiple analyses on one liquid sample.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The device according to claim ~~1-3~~, ~~where two or more flow paths are provided, each connected to one sink respectively, wherein said device being is adapted for performing multiple analyses on one sample, wherein to perform~~ 2, ~~wherein~~ said multiple analyses are performed in parallel.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The device according to claim ~~1-4~~, ~~where two or more flow paths are provided, each connected to one and the same sink, wherein said device being is adapted for performing multiple analyses on one sample, wherein to perform~~ 3, ~~wherein~~ said multiple analyses are performed in parallel.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one flow path is adapted to accept a serial addition of multiple compositions.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one sink is adapted to respond to an external influence to regulate the capacity of said at least one sink to receive said liquid sample.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) The device according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 7, wherein said external influence is selected from the group consisting of heating, cooling, irradiation with visible light, infrared irradiation, vibration, and the application of an electronic current.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 8, wherein said at least one sink is adapted for division into sub-sections, said sub-sections adapted to being serially subjected to said external influence.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one sink, or a sub-section thereof, is capable of being heated to evaporate said liquid sample there from.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one flow path is in fluid connection with said at least one sink and is selected from the group of flow paths consisting of a flow path formed as a capillary groove or open channel, a flow path formed as a

closed capillary, and a flow path formed as a tortuous path through a fibrous material or through a gel-like material.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one flow path is in fluid connection with said at least one sink, and wherein said at least one flow path comprises areas having substantially vertical projections.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein said vertical projections have different cross sections in different zones of said at least one flow path.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said device further comprises a design feature to prevent back flow of said liquid sample.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) A method of performing a chemical or biochemical assay involving a reaction between an analyte in a sample and one or more reagents, said method comprising:

adding a sample to the device of claim 1 and
reacting said sample with one or more reagents.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) A method of performing a chemical or biochemical assay involving a reaction between an analyte in a sample and one or more reagents, said method comprising:

reacting a sample with one or more reagents on the device of claim 1.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) A method for handling liquid samples, the method comprising using wherein the device of claim 1 ~~is used~~.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) A method of pre-treating a liquid sample, prior to performing a chemical or biochemical assay, the method comprising using wherein the device of claim 1 ~~is used~~.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 14, wherein said design feature is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ a set of vertical projections having different cross sections in different zones of said at least one flow path, ~~and or~~ an external influence, wherein said external influence is selected from the group consisting of heating, cooling, irradiation with visible light, infrared irradiation, vibration, and application of an electric current.